

Amendment 2 backer seeks funds to set up nationwide network

BT 7/14/93

By Louis Aguliar
Gazette Telegraph

A new think tank launched by a creator of Amendment 2 will try to raise up to \$100,000 and set up a nationwide network to spread information about the gay rights debate, its founder said Tuesday.

The group, America for Family Values, won't get involved in political campaigns or try to influence proposed legislation, said founder Tony Marco.

Rather, he said, it will research and disseminate legal and journalistic opinions on the status of gays and monitor federal, state and local initiatives.

Marco runs a counseling group for homosexuals seeking to change their sexual orientation and was a founding member of Colorado for Family Values, the group that promoted Amendment 2. The voter-approved measure, which would ban laws that protect gays from discrimination based on their sexual orientation, is on hold pending a court challenge to its constitutionality.

America for Family Values, a nonprofit organization, will try to attract from \$75,000 to \$100,000 in donations to collect information and set up a computerized system to spread it, Marco said.

Among other things, the data base will eventually have a wide range of information on such things as the legal and constitutional arguments behind Amendment 2, Marco said. The group also plans a fax system providing articles related to "gay militancy issues" and a 900 telephone line for general inquiries, he said.

"We envision sort of a national network of researchers, news gatherers and stringers who will help keep us abreast, not really members," he said.

Ground Zero, a gay rights group that formed in Colorado Springs after the passage of Amendment 2, was critical of Marco's plan. It predicts the group's information will be skewed against gays.

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